



California Crop Weather

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



A weak system moved through northern California bringing light to moderate rain across the far north, with very light amounts as far south as Monterey. On Friday, another weak system brushed California with the only significant precipitation falling over the far northwest corner of the State in the Crescent City area. Otherwise, the State has been warm and dry with above normal high temperatures.

FIELD CROPS

The draining of **rice** fields began in the Sacramento Valley. Warm temperatures continued to accelerate the growth of grasses, small grains, and forage crops. Herbicide application and some irrigation occurred in small grain fields. **Alfalfa** fields were treated with herbicides and pesticides. Reduced alfalfa yields were reported in Imperial County, due to the cold spring, aphid pressure, and high winds. **Safflower** fields and **Sudan grass** fields were growing well. Field preparation was ongoing for spring **cotton** planting. Cotton planting was underway in the Imperial Valley. Field preparation began for **corn** planting. **Sweet potato** hotbed planting was ongoing in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Early stone fruit bloom was ongoing. Varieties included **peaches**, **nectarines**, **plums**, and **pluots**. Fruit set was beginning in some parts of the State. A few **cherries** were also blooming and full bloom was expected soon. More **grape** buds were beginning to swell. Grape vineyard fertilization, irrigation, and spray applications to control weeds were still in progress. **Blueberry** fields were still blooming in Fresno County. **Pomegranate** orchards were being irrigated, fertilized, and herbicides were applied. New orchards were being planted. Harvests of **oranges**, **tangerines**, **tangelos**, **mandarins**, **lemons**, and **grapefruit** continued. Some growers were treating to control fungus and weeds and applying nutrients. Growers were still processing fruit damaged from the January freeze into juice. Pruning of frost damaged limbs was also in progress.

NUT CROPS

Almond bloom was in full swing and some varieties were nearing the end of bloom. Bloom spraying continued in almond orchards. **Walnut** growers were still pruning and shredding brush.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Recent warm weather has been conducive for the growth of vegetables in Tulare County. The planting of **bitter melons**, **eggplant**, **gourds**, **okra**, **oriental squash**, **tomatoes**, **yellow squash** and **zucchini** remained underway. **Amaranth**, **basil**, **cilantro**, **dill**, **garlic**, and red and yellow **onions** were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated to control insects and mildew. **Asparagus** harvest has begun. Harvesting of **bok choy**, **broccoli**, **cabbage**, **daikon**, **dandelion greens**, **green onions**, **kale**, leaf **lettuce**, **leeks**, **mustard greens**, **parsley**, **parsnips**, **rutabaga**, **Swiss chard**, and **turnips** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures in northern California were in good condition with warmer temperatures and adequate soil moisture. Foothill pasture conditions in central California were mixed. Some foothill ranches on the west side of the valley only received light rain so far this season with new grass growth well below normal. Consequently, supplemental feeding was still occurring and cattle weight gains have been disappointing in that area. Ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields and retired farm land with some ewes grazing in broccoli fields. Warmer weather was prompting the movement of sheep from alfalfa fields as the new crop harvest moved closer. Old crop lambs continued to ship from pastures in the Imperial Valley. Bees were in almond orchards and being placed in nut and stone fruit orchards and blueberry fields in the central area.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/11/07

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/11/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/11/07	January 1 - 03/11/07	Week Ending 03/11/07	July 1 - 03/11/07	July 1 - 03/11/07	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	48	-2	59	39	0	0	0.44	31.85	29.40	37.53
Ukiah	53	1	74	35	0	0	0.04	20.49	31.78	37.96
Santa Rosa	54	0	72	37	2	0	0.00	15.97	25.29	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	55	1	66	45	2	0	0.00	10.31	16.59	19.70
San Jose	58	2	71	44	8	0	0.00	7.58	11.97	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	3	0	0.00	0.00	11.65	14.21
Salinas AP	55	1	73	40	0	0	0.00	6.80	10.02	12.44
Monterey FAA	53	1	67	40	4	0	0.00	6.02	12.16	18.72
King City	58	3	82	38	16	0	0.00	4.32	9.70	11.44
Paso Robles AP	57	5	78	36	2	0	0.00	3.73	10.77	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	53	1	74	34	4	0	0.01	18.54	26.78	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	55	1	74	37	2	0	0.02	10.41	18.81	22.29
Chico AFS	58	5	76	37	2	0	0.00	11.32	20.93	26.32
Marysville	56	1	73	40	0	0	0.00	10.46	17.77	21.04
Sacramento AP	56	3	73	40	0	0	0.00	8.78	14.51	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	59	5	77	43	5	0	0.00	6.56	10.92	13.95
Fresno	60	5	77	43	8	0	0.00	4.52	8.59	10.60
Bakersfield	60	4	79	43	12	0	0.00	2.69	4.85	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	59	6	85	43	27	0	0.00	4.37	11.05	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	1	73	40	4	0	0.00	6.15	14.04	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	85	0	0.00	0.00	12.82	14.38
Los Angeles	65	4	84	50	148	16	0.00	2.42	12.22	14.77
Riverside	66	9	90	43	96	0	0.00	1.31	8.50	9.58
San Diego AP	62	3	78	53	45	0	0.00	3.44	8.37	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	51	5	75	26	0	0	0.00	1.30	3.99	5.37
Lancaster	61	9	83	30	18	0	0.00	1.10	6.42	6.92
Daggett AP	64	6	83	37	30	0	0.00	0.33	3.50	3.93
Thermal AP	68	5	93	40	86	37	0.00	0.13	3.23	3.16
Blythe	69	6	90	45	108	42	0.00	3.35	3.64	3.60
Imperial	70	6	91	47	120	65	0.00	0.07	2.70	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	43	5	60	22	0	0	0.08	4.27	8.12	12.01
Mt. Shasta	44	3	63	27	0	0	0.27	21.85	30.70	37.02
Blue Canyon	46	7	59	36	0	0	0.01	38.62	51.75	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	13.15	29.99	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.